

**AMENDMENT B**  
(37 C.F.R. 1.111)

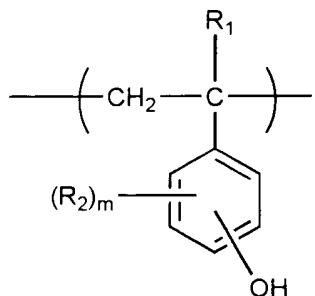
IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 2, 3 and 5 in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.121.

The claims are attached herein on separate sheets.

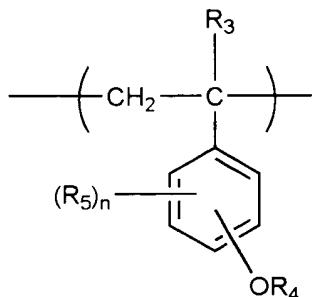
**AMENDMENT TO CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) An alkenylphenol copolymer  
~~characterized by that a copolymer consists of comprising~~  
Component ~~(A)~~ containing a repeating unit represented by Formula  
(I)



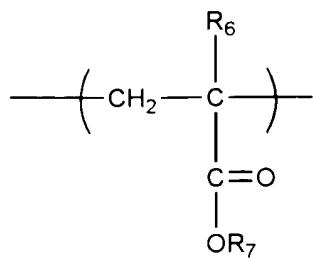
Formula (I)

wherein,  $\text{R}_1$  is hydrogen or methyl,  $\text{R}_2$  is alkyl having 1 to 5 carbons,  $m$  is 0, 1 or 2 and  $\text{R}_2$  is the same or different when  $m$  is 2; and a repeating unit represented by Formula (II)



Formula (II)

wherein,  $\text{R}_3$  is hydrogen or methyl,  $\text{R}_4$  is a group to be eliminated and/or decomposed with an acid,  $\text{R}_5$  is alkyl having 1 to 5 carbons,  $n$  is 0, 1 or 2 and  $\text{R}_5$  is the same or different when  $n$  is 2; and Component ~~(B)~~ containing a repeating unit represented by Formula (III)

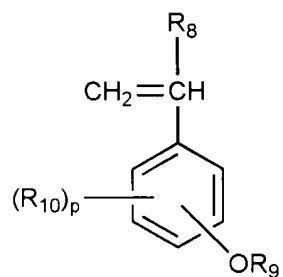


Formula (III)

wherein, R<sub>6</sub> is hydrogen or methyl, and R<sub>7</sub> is a group having a t-butyl group and to be eliminated and/or decomposed with an acid, of which Components ~~A~~ and ~~B~~ are bound in block in the form of ~~A~~ - ~~B~~, has a ratio ~~Mw/Mn~~ of the weight-average molecular weight ~~Mw~~ to the number-average molecular weight ~~Mn~~ in a range of 1.00 and 1.50, and has no carboxylic acid residues.

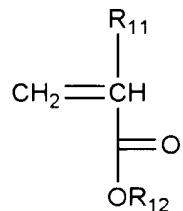
2. (Original) An alkenylphenol copolymer according to Claim 1 in which the weight-average molecular weight is 1,000 to 100,000.

3. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of the alkenylphenol copolymer according to Claim 1, in which a compound represented by Formula (IV) whose hydroxyl group of the phenol residue is protected



Formula (IV)

wherein, R<sub>8</sub> is hydrogen or methyl, R<sub>9</sub> is a group to be eliminated and/or decomposed with an acid, R<sub>10</sub> is alkyl having 1 to 5 carbons, p is 0, 1 or 2 and R<sub>10</sub> is the same or different when p is 2; is polymerized, or a compound of Formula (IV) and a vinylaromatic compound are copolymerized, by anionic polymerization using an anionic polymerization initiator as a polymerization initiator, followed by copolymerization with a (meth)acrylic ester represented by Formula (V)



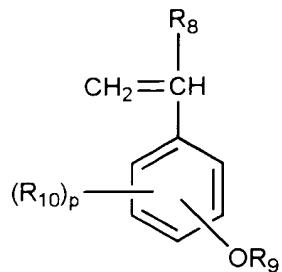
Formula (V)

wherein, R<sub>11</sub> is hydrogen or methyl, and R<sub>12</sub> is a group having a t-butyl group and to be eliminated and/or decomposed with an acid; and the obtained block copolymer is treated with an acid reagent to eliminate and/or decompose only a specified amount of the group protecting the phenolic hydroxyl group.

4. (Original) A process for the preparation of the alkenylphenol copolymer according to Claim 3 in which the step of eliminating and/or decomposing only a specified amount of the group protecting the phenolic hydroxyl group with an acid reagent is carried out at below 60°C.

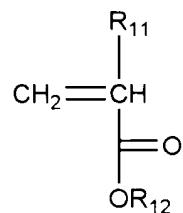
5. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of the alkenylphenol copolymer according to Claim 2, in which a

compound represented by Formula (IV) whose hydroxyl group of the phenol residue is protected



Formula (IV)

wherein, R<sub>8</sub> is hydrogen or methyl, R<sub>9</sub> is a group to be eliminated and/or decomposed with an acid, R<sub>10</sub> is alkyl having 1 to 5 carbons, p is 0, 1 or 2 and R<sub>10</sub> is the same or different when p is 2; is polymerized, or a compound of Formula (IV) and a vinylaromatic compound are copolymerized, by anionic polymerization using an anionic polymerization initiator as a polymerization initiator, followed by copolymerization with a (meth)acrylic ester represented by Formula (V)



Formula (V)

wherein, R<sub>11</sub> is hydrogen or methyl, and R<sub>12</sub> is a group having a t-butyl group and to be eliminated and/or decomposed with an acid; and the obtained block copolymer is treated with an acid

reagent to eliminate and/or decompose only a specified amount of the group protecting the phenolic hydroxyl group.

6. (Previously Added) A process for the preparation of the alkenylphenol copolymer according to Claim 5 in which the step of eliminating and/or decomposing only a specified amount of the group protecting the phenolic hydroxyl group with an acid reagent is carried out at below 60°C.